

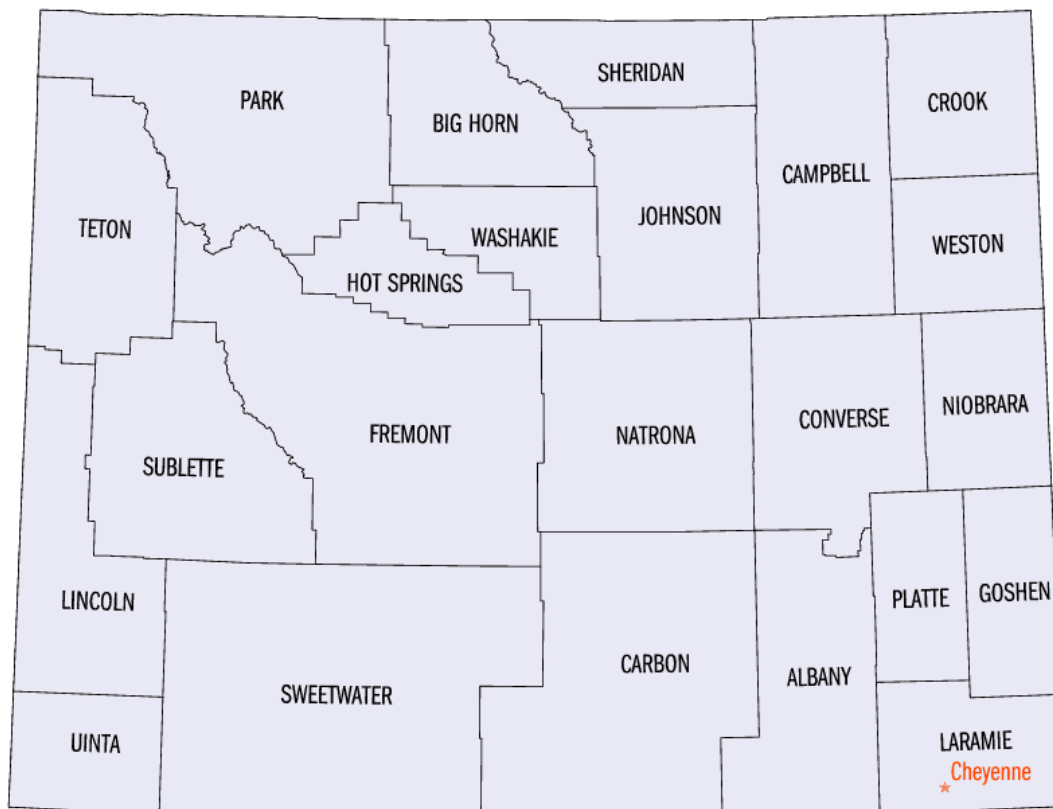
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Wyoming

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Wyoming

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 498,703 (July 2002 estimate), 493,782 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 88.9% white, 0.7% black/African American, 2.1% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.5% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.1% some other race, 1.2% two or more races, 6.4% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

Political

- Governor: Dave Freudenthal²
- Attorney General: Patrick J. Crank³
- Secretary of State: Joseph B. Meyer⁴
- U.S. Senate: Michael Enzi (R), Craig Thomas (R)⁵
- U.S. House of Representatives: Barbara Cubin⁶

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁷
The Rocky Mountain HIDTA was designated in 1996 and consists of the States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The counties of Albany, Campbell, Laramie, Natrona, and Sweetwater from Wyoming participate in the HIDTA.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Wyoming:⁸
 - FY 2002: \$100,000 to Youth Empowerment Project Coalition, Laramie;
 - FY 2001: \$99,134 to Juvenile Justice Partnership, Gillette;
 - FY 2000: \$100,000 to Abate Substance Abuse Project, Riverton;
 - FY 1999: \$94,113 to Wind River Health Promotion Program, St. Stephen's;
 - FY 1998: \$100,000 to Uinta County, Evanston.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for Wyoming:⁹
 - Formula Funding: \$4,219,973
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant: \$3,048,693
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: \$ 486,380
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant: \$384,900
 - Discretionary Funding: \$7,032,784
 - Mental Health: \$2,537,784
 - Substance Prevention: \$3,020,000
 - Substance Abuse Treatment: \$1,475,000
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$3,709,064
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$7,543,693

- Total Funds for Wyoming: \$11,252,757
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁰
No sites in Wyoming have been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites.
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Wyoming: \$1,963,472¹¹
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant amounts received in Wyoming:¹²
 - \$429,166 to Natrona County Government for drug court implementation;
 - \$499,997 to Shoshone and Arapaho Joint Business Council/Shoshone and Arapaho Tribal Substance Abuse Court for drug court implementation.
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Wyoming:¹³
 - FY 1996: None
 - FY 1997: \$140,673
 - FY 1998: \$298,773
 - FY 1999: \$286,851
 - FY 2000: \$292,740
 - FY 2001: \$294,891
 - FY 2002: \$323,898
- There were no Wyoming recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing and Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁴
- There were no recipients in Wyoming of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁵

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 1999, there were 2,719 arrests for drug abuse violations in Wyoming.¹⁶ This number decreased during 2000 to 2,310.¹⁷ During 2001, there were 2,317 arrests for drug abuse violations in Wyoming.¹⁸

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Wyoming, 1999-2001

Offense	1999	2000	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	9	11	8
Forcible rape	46	45	41
Robbery	35	38	39
Aggravated assault	414	549	532
Burglary	413	396	386
Larceny/theft	2,267	2,309	2,708
Motor vehicle theft	114	136	142
Arson	51	29	9
Drug abuse violations	2,719	2,310	2,317
Driving under the influence	4,271	4,488	4,695
Liquor laws	6,110	5,658	5,190
Drunkenness	1,502	1,451	1,384

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 42 arrests for drug violations in Wyoming.¹⁹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Wyoming, 1997-2001

Year	Number of Arrests
1997	47
1998	96
1999	83
2000	60
2001	42

- During FY 2001, methamphetamine comprised more than 50% of all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) drug arrests in Wyoming.²⁰
- Law enforcement in Wyoming reported only two drug violation arrests for heroin during 2001.²¹
- GHB and ecstasy appeared in Wyoming during FY 2000 and caused club drug related arrests to increase since then.²²

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine is available throughout the State, especially in urban areas. Prices for cocaine have remained stable, although demand has declined. A kilogram, when available, can cost between \$21,000 to \$23,000. An ounce of powder cocaine sells for \$1,000 to \$1,200 and one-eighth of an ounce sells for \$200 to \$275.²³ A gram of cocaine sells for \$100. Crack cocaine can be found in the State, but not in significant quantities.²⁴ A gram of crack cocaine sells for \$50 to \$100 and a rock sells for \$25 to \$40.²⁵
- Heroin
Heroin is not considered a popular illicit drug of abuse in Wyoming and doesn't present a significant problem for law enforcement. Heroin prices have remained unchanged since 1997. A gram of heroin usually sells for \$125-\$250.²⁶ Mexican black tar is almost exclusively available in the State.²⁷
- Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine use remains popular in the State and demand for the drug has increased in the past year, while prices have remained stable. Users engage in burglary, larceny, and fraud to support their drug habit.²⁸ Mexican produced methamphetamine predominates in Wyoming, although methamphetamine produced in California and locally produced methamphetamine is also available. During the second quarter of FY 2001, methamphetamine sold for \$7,500 to \$10,000 per pound; \$1,000 to \$1,200 per ounce; and \$80 to \$100 per gram.²⁹
- Marijuana
Marijuana, which is considered the second greatest drug threat in the State, is the most widely available and abused illicit drug in Wyoming. Mexican produced marijuana is the most common type of marijuana available although marijuana cultivated in the U.S. by Mexican criminal groups as well as locally produced marijuana are also available. Prices for marijuana have remained stable. An ounce of marijuana usually sells for \$125 to \$150 and a pound usually sells for around \$1,200. Mexican sinsemilla

is not common in Wyoming. Locally produced sinsemilla can be purchased for \$250 per ounce and around \$3,500 per pound. The average potency level for marijuana seized in Wyoming during 2000 was 7.3%.³⁰

➤ **Club Drugs**

Club drug use has escalated throughout the State. Ecstasy can be purchased in tablet or powder form, although ecstasy in powder form is limited in availability. LSD and psilocybin mushrooms continue to be popular recreational drugs on college campuses. LSD is the most prevalent of the hallucinogens selling for \$2 to \$5 per dosage unit.³¹

➤ **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**

The diversion of prescription controlled substances is a growing problem in Wyoming. The most commonly abused licit drugs are depressants and semi-narcotic painkillers such as Vicodin (hydrocodone), Dilaudid (hydromorphone), Percocet, and Percodan (oxycodones). Heroin users prefer Dilaudid as a substitute for heroin.³²

➤ According to the 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 41% of Wyoming citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³³

Percentage of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Wyoming, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month any illicit drug use	9.07%	15.41%	3.24%	5.67%
Past month marijuana use	7.42	12.99	2.26	4.40
Past month use of illicit drug other than marj.	4.52	6.25	1.65	2.64
Past year cocaine use	1.68	4.68	0.89	1.53
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	36.80	28.13	44.48	41.23
Average annual rate of first use of marijuana	6.51	6.18	0.12	1.83

➤ According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.13% of Wyoming citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁴

Percentage of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, by Age, Wyoming, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.10%	3.50%	0.52%	1.13%
Illicit drug dependence and abuse	4.37	6.21	0.76	1.96
Alcohol dependence	2.34	4.85	1.66	2.20
Alcohol dependence or abuse	7.27	15.60	3.90	5.97
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	8.24	18.16	4.30	6.75

Juveniles

➤ During 1999, there were 549 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Wyoming.³⁵ This number decreased to 486 during 2000.³⁶ Juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations increased during 2001 to 598 in Wyoming.³⁷

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Wyoming, 1999-2001

Offense	1999	2000	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	-	-	0
Forcible rape	5	5	2
Robbery	8	9	13
Aggravated assault	78	87	89
Burglary	140	161	173
Larceny/theft	1,316	964	963
Motor vehicle theft	73	60	50
Arson	4	19	27
Drug abuse violations	549	486	598
Driving under the influence	99	88	82
Liquor laws	2,108	1,732	1,456
Drunkenness	68	65	50

- During 2001, 41% of high school students in Wyoming reported using marijuana within their lifetime.³⁸

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Wyoming, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	38.5%	43.3%	41.0%
Current marijuana use	16.9	23.7	20.4
Lifetime cocaine use	10.0	8.9	9.5
Current cocaine use	4.1	4.3	4.3
Lifetime inhalant use	15.6	16.3	16.0
Current inhalant use	3.6	4.9	4.2
Lifetime heroin use	2.7	3.1	2.9
Lifetime methamphetamine use	11.0	10.4	10.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.8	6.6	5.3
Lifetime injecting drug use	1.8	3.3	2.6
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	7.5	11.8	9.8

Enforcement

- Rocky Mountain HIDTA Initiatives in Wyoming:³⁹
 - Wyoming Highway Patrol – This program, in partnership with the Wyoming Regional Enforcement Teams, works to engage in drug interdiction efforts as a part of their routine duties on the Wyoming highways and interstates. Four officers are designated HIDTA K-9 units with interdiction responsibilities. The highway patrol through its interdiction efforts targets drug smugglers and transporters responsible for significant loads destined to or through the State of Wyoming.
 - Wyoming Regional Enforcement Teams – The Wyoming Central Enforcement Team, Wyoming Northeast Enforcement Team, Wyoming Southeast Enforcement Team, and Wyoming Southwest Enforcement Team have primary responsibility for specific geographic regions in Wyoming. The teams' mission is targeting and apprehending mid to high-level drug traffickers with an emphasis on

methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana and other drugs. The ultimate goal is identifying and pursuing supply sources whether in or outside the region.

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 2,006 law enforcement employees in Wyoming, 1,239 police officers and 767 civilian employees.⁴⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mexican criminal organizations dominate cocaine distribution.⁴¹
- Some Mexican criminal groups convert powder cocaine to crack for retail distribution while individual users convert powder cocaine to crack for personal use.⁴²
- Southwestern Wyoming is an active transit area for the distribution of methamphetamine throughout the State.⁴³
- Criminal groups do not usually distribute heroin. Heroin abusers travel to larger cities in surrounding States to purchase personal use quantities.⁴⁴
- Marijuana is easily grown in the remote areas of Wyoming. Growers in Wyoming have abandoned the larger outdoor cultivation sites for smaller indoor grows that are easier to conceal from law enforcement.⁴⁵
- Mexican criminals dominate wholesale and retail marijuana distribution in Wyoming.⁴⁶
- Caucasian independent dealers distribute locally produced marijuana.⁴⁷
- Most Wyoming methamphetamine labs are small, hydriodic acid/red phosphorus method operations capable of producing multi-ounce to pound quantities. The Birch reduction (Nazi) method is also being used in Wyoming. This method can produce small quantities of methamphetamine with purity levels of 90% in an hour.⁴⁸
- Methamphetamine in Wyoming comes from California, the Southwest U.S., and Mexico.⁴⁹
- Mexican illegal aliens are heavily involved in the transportation and local trafficking of methamphetamine in Wyoming.⁵⁰
- In 2001, there were a total of 145 marijuana plants eradicated and seized in Wyoming as a result of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁵¹

Results of Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, Wyoming, 2001

<i>Outdoor Operations</i>	
Plots eradicated	4
Cultivated plants eradicated	35
<i>Indoor Operations</i>	
Grows seized	2
Cultivated plants eradicated	110
Bulk processed marijuana (in pounds)	85
Ditchweed eradicated	NA
Total cultivated plants eradicated	145
Number of arrests	1
Number of weapons seized	NA
Value of assets seized	\$0

- During 2001, Federal authorities seized 13.2 kilograms of methamphetamine in Wyoming.⁵²

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Wyoming, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	8.1
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	13.2
Marijuana	0

- During 2001, there were 42 methamphetamine labs seized in Wyoming.⁵³

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, Wyoming, 1997-2001

Year	Meth Lab Seizures
1997	47
1998	96
1999	83
2000	60
2001	42

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵⁴
As of January 8, 2003, there were 16 drug courts in Wyoming. Two drug courts have been operating for over 2 years, 9 were recently implemented, and 5 were being planned.
- During FY 2001, 43.5% of Federally sentenced defendants in Wyoming had committed drug offenses. Approximately 81% of these drug offenses involved methamphetamine.⁵⁵

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Wyoming, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	Percentage of Total
Powder cocaine	4	6.3%
Crack cocaine	0	0.0
Heroin	0	0.0
Marijuana	6	9.4
Methamphetamine	52	81.3
Other	2	3.1

Corrections

- At yearend 2001, there were 1,684 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Wyoming.⁵⁶
- At yearend 2001, there were 4,477 adults on probation and 557 adults on parole in Wyoming.⁵⁷

Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 175 deaths due to traffic crashes on Wyoming roadways. 60 fatalities (34% of all deaths) were alcohol/drug related.⁵⁸

Treatment

- During 2001, there were 4,055 total admissions to substance abuse treatment in Wyoming, 16.8% were for marijuana.⁵⁹

Admissions to Treatment, Wyoming, 2001

	Number	Percentage
Alcohol only	1,872	46.2%
Alcohol with secondary drug	772	19.0
Cocaine (smoked)	31	0.8
Cocaine (other route)	47	1.2
Marijuana	682	16.8
Heroin	16	0.4
Other opiates	40	1.0
PCP	1	0.0
Hallucinogens	10	0.2
Amphetamines	400	9.9
Other stimulants	2	0.0
Tranquilizers	9	0.2
Sedatives	18	0.4
Inhalants	4	0.1
Other/unknown	151	3.7
Total	4,055	100.0

Sources

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² Wyoming Governor's Web site: http://www.state.wy.us/governor/governor_home.asp

³ Wyoming Attorney General's Web site: <http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us>

⁴ Wyoming Secretary of State's Web site:

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⁵ U.S. Senate Web site, Wyoming :

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⁶ U.S. House of Representatives Web site, Wyoming Representatives:

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⁷ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area:

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⁸ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Wyoming grantees:

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⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>

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